



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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# 1. Introduction

Energypedia UG hosts [www.energypedia.info](http://www.energypedia.info), a wiki-based platform for collaborative knowledge exchange on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the context of development cooperation. By offering user-friendly tools, we enable stakeholders engaged in the energy sector to share their practical experience and to collaborate worldwide. Securing access to modern and sustainable energy services in developing countries is among the most important challenges for development.

In 2020, energypedia.info continued to play an important role in sharing knowledge and experience on clean, sustainable and renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. With **4,809** articles contributed by an increasing community of **10,786** registered users, as of December 2020, our outreach is constantly growing.

However, due to the pandemic and ending financial support, 2020 was a very difficult year for us. We had to drastically cut costs and reduce our commitment to a minimum.

Nonetheless, we stay optimistic: With the help of our donors, supporters and the global community of energypedia users and contributors, we will continue to advocate for the removal of knowledge barriers and the diffusion of information to achieve universal and sustainable energy access for all.

Thank you all for your commitment to our shared mission and for giving your time, skills and knowledge to energypedia!

## 1.1 Vision and approach

### Vision

A world where everyone has access to sustainable energy services.

### Mission

Our mission is to empower energy practitioners by fostering free knowledge exchange, global collaboration and mutual learning on renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access.

Energypedia provides an online platform to collect and disseminate free, relevant and high quality information. Our user-friendly tool allows experts to write about and share their experiences.

## 1.2 Scope of the report

Scope	This annual report gives an overview on all activities carried out by nonprofit energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt) and the achieved results in 2020.
Reporting period	Reporting period is the calendar year 2020, thus from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December.
Application of SRS	<p>This is the seventh time energypedia uses the Social Reporting Standard. The report is based on the SRS version from 2014.</p> <p>The SRS is published by the Social Reporting Initiative (SRI) e.V. Association under the Creative Commons license BY-ND 3.0</p>
Contact persons	<p>Managing director Robert Heine (<a href="mailto:Robert.heine@energypedia.info">Robert.heine@energypedia.info</a>)</p> <p>Managing director Johanna Hartmann (<a href="mailto:johanna.hartmann@energypedia.info">johanna.hartmann@energypedia.info</a>)</p>

## 2. Fighting Energy Poverty through Knowledge Exchange

### 2.1 The social problem – energy poverty and development

Access to sustainable energy services can power opportunities for environmental, social and economic development. Yet, today almost 800,000 people worldwide lack access to electricity, while every third person cooks on unhealthy open fireplaces and traditional stoves. The lack of energy is also affecting small and medium-sized enterprises as well as public facilities that depend on reliable and affordable energy supplies.<sup>1</sup>

Without sufficient energy services, people are unable to cook their food, heat their homes or store their medications in a cool place, not to mention learning and reading in the evening. Taking part in economic or political processes via modern communication channels likewise remains impossible.<sup>2</sup>

Poor access to sustainable energy services not only has negative economic and ecological impacts on societies and the environment, but also on people's health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the acrid smokes from traditional cookstoves and fuels resulted in almost 4 million deaths in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

In times of climate change, it is also of the utmost importance to make energy supply sustainable. Energy-saving technologies and the use of renewable energy sources can really make a difference in developing countries. Furthermore, in remote areas a decentralized energy supply using renewable sources such as sun, wind, water or wood and other biomass will remain the only option for the next decades as national grids are unlikely to be expanded to these regions.<sup>4</sup>

Both, granting people access to modern and climate-friendly energy sources and promoting energy efficiency is therefore a key challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as highlighted by the United Nations (UN), declaring 2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.<sup>5</sup>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, also puts emphasis on sustainable energy and energy access. **Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7)**, stresses the importance of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, energy is relevant also for the achievement of a number of other SDGs, such as poverty, health, climate, education, and gender.<sup>7</sup>

However, there is still a lack of first-hand knowledge on modern and sustainable energy solutions when it comes to their sustainable diffusion in developing countries.<sup>8</sup> This knowledge often only exists locally or in single implementing organizations and is thus difficult to access for individuals or even other organizations and governments. There is a great need to facilitate and expand the diffusion of these technologies in developing countries through practical knowledge exchange and collaboration, not only from developed to developing countries but also among developing countries. This knowledge should be freely accessible and thus cross-sectoral cooperation potentials should be promoted.

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<sup>1</sup> IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, WHO. 2021. Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report. World Bank, Washington DC. <https://www.irena.org/publications/2021/Jun/Tracking-SDG-7-2021>

<sup>2</sup> International Energy Agency (2017): Energy Access Outlook 2017. From Poverty to Prosperity. World Energy Outlook Special Report. [https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2017SpecialReport\\_EnergyAccessOutlook.pdf](https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2017SpecialReport_EnergyAccessOutlook.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> WHO (2018): Factsheet on Household Air Pollution and Health. <http://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>. WHO Global Health Observatory Data: Household air pollution in 2016. [http://www.who.int/gho/phe/indoor\\_air\\_pollution/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/phe/indoor_air_pollution/en/)

<sup>4</sup> IRENA (2018): Off-grid renewable energy solutions. [https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2018/Jul/IRENA\\_Off-grid\\_RE\\_Solutions\\_2018.pdf](https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2018/Jul/IRENA_Off-grid_RE_Solutions_2018.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024. A/RES/67/215: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/215](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/215)

<sup>6</sup> UN Sustainable Development Goal 7: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

<sup>7</sup> Energy and the Sustainable Development Goals. Energypedia: [https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energy\\_and\\_the\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals#Energy\\_and\\_other\\_SDGs](https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energy_and_the_Sustainable_Development_Goals#Energy_and_other_SDGs)

<sup>8</sup> E/CN.17/2001/19 - Report on the 9th Decision on International Cooperation for an Enabling Environment. See recommendation 29. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/energy/decisions>

<sup>9</sup> Samuel Chisa Dike (2018): Adequate Education and information sharing: Key to attaining access to sustainable energy. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323551131\\_ADEQUATE\\_EDUCATION\\_AND\\_INFORMATION\\_SHARING\\_KEY\\_TO\\_ATTAINING\\_ACCESS\\_TO\\_SUSTAINABLE\\_ENERGY](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323551131_ADEQUATE_EDUCATION_AND_INFORMATION_SHARING_KEY_TO_ATTAINING_ACCESS_TO_SUSTAINABLE_ENERGY)

*„Grundsätzlich gilt: Alle im Auftrag einer Kooperation entstandenen Informationsprodukte oder Standards sollten für alle Kooperationspartner gemeinsames Eigentum und für alle Interessenvertreterinnen und -vertreter frei zugänglich sein. Das Ziel sollte es sein, offenen Zugang zu Informationen und offene, gemeinsame Wissensproduktion zu ermöglichen. So entstehen gemeinsam entwickelte und neue Informations- und Wissensprodukte, sogenannte „Wissensallmende“ (wie Wikipedia, Energypedia etc.).“ (BMZ) <sup>10</sup>*



In recent years, **knowledge sharing** has become a core component of achieving the goals of SDGs, alongside the provision of financial and technical support. The exchange of knowledge is an effective means for professionals to:

- learn from each other what works and what doesn't, so that the trial and error process can be shortened and the wheel does not have to be reinvented,
- catalyse innovative solutions by sharing ideas and knowledge on specific topics,
- replicate and extend successful solutions,
- promote cooperation across regions and themes for an integrative exchange of knowledge - also in South-South cooperation.

The direct exchange of knowledge between energy experts can also unfold at institutional and systemic level and influence developments there. It is therefore crucial to strengthen the capacity for knowledge exchange so that the core knowledge can be identified, captured and shared in order to expand energy projects that work at the national and international level.<sup>11</sup>

The general need for partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector is also reflected in SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals, which i.e. targets at enhancing “North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing...”.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.2 Solution attempts made to date

There is no institutionalized structure in place for sharing knowledge and practical expertise about renewable energy and energy efficiency across individuals from different organizations, institutions, private sector, and academia on local, national and international levels. Thus, besides sporadic conferences or workshops, there are few possibilities for practitioners, experts and scientists to directly exchange experience, new findings and lessons learnt regarding sustainable energy access.

## 2.3 The solution – connecting people and knowledge

Recognizing that development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires that all actors have access to information, energypedia is using Web 2.0 technologies to remove knowledge barriers and expand the diffusion of information on how universal and sustainable energy access for all can be achieved.

Through hosting the platform [www.energypedia.info](http://www.energypedia.info), we strive to create the right environment and provide the right tools for stakeholders engaged in the energy sector to collaborate, create and share knowledge and practical experience.

<sup>10</sup> BMZ (2019): [Toolkit 2.0 - Digitalisierung in der EZ](#) 2.0; page 158. Translation: “As a general rule, all information products or standards developed on behalf of a cooperation should be jointly owned by all cooperation partners and freely accessible to all stakeholders. The goal should be to enable open access to information and open, joint knowledge production. In this way, jointly developed and new information and knowledge products, so-called “knowledge almende” (such as Wikipedia, Energypedia, etc.) are created.”

<sup>11</sup> World Bank: The Art of Knowledge Exchange. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29355>

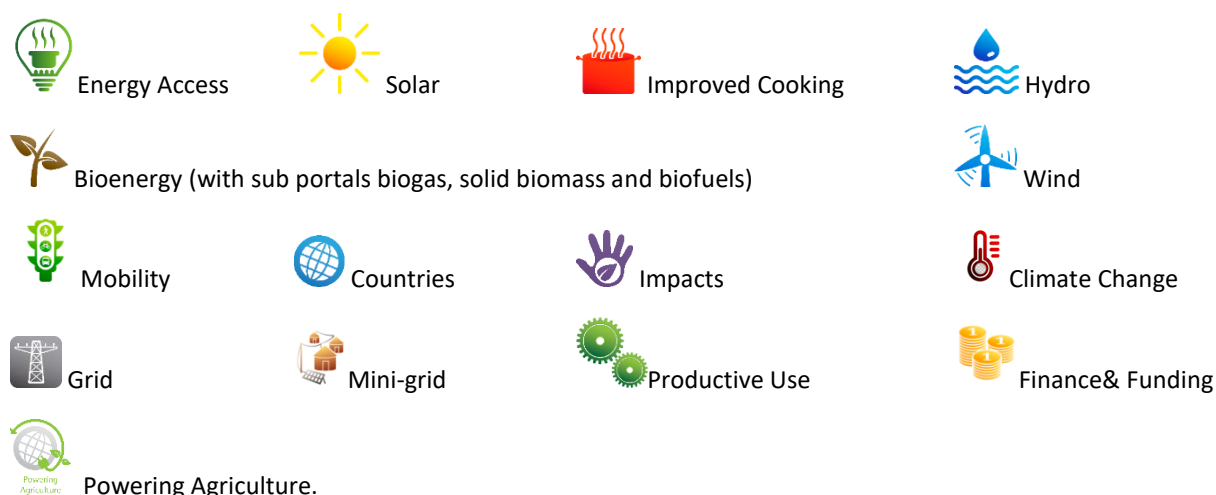
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

[www.energypedia.info](http://www.energypedia.info) is a wiki platform offering free access to expert information on renewables, energy access and energy efficiency in developing countries. All content on energypedia is open source, meaning everyone can use it freely as long as the author and the source are acknowledged.

All visitors of the site can freely access and read articles and content on energypedia. Once registered, users can also easily create, modify and share content and all their contributions will directly be accessible online. In this way, energypedia supports the necessary international knowledge exchange between experts and practitioners in civil society, academia, the public as well as the private sector. Thus, energypedia not only facilitates knowledge exchange between industrial and developing countries, but also promotes the direct exchange of experience among people in developing countries.

Most information on energypedia is clustered into portals, which serve as an entry point to the interested readers. A wide range of topics is covered by the portals, i.e. from solar energy to hydro, biogas, improved cooking, impacts, and country-related information.

As of end 2020, the following portals were online:



We believe: knowledge sharing is power!

Did you know?

Wikis are websites that can be modified by users without any programming expertise. The best known and most successful example is Wikipedia.

Energypedia uses the open-source software Mediawiki, which is also used by Wikipedia. All articles and files shared on energypedia are published under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0 Unported License](#) (CC-BY-SA) and the [GNU Free Documentation License](#) (GFDL).

### **2.3.1 Work performed (output) and direct target groups**

Our direct target groups are people worldwide who are dealing with energy access issues in developing countries. This includes energy experts and practitioners who are active in the field, academics and researchers, government officials as well as the general interested public and other stakeholders. Users of energypedia come from public and private sectors as well as from civil society and academia.

To offer them a platform for knowledge exchange and for fostering the spread of renewables in developing countries, energypedia UG hosts and maintains the free wiki platform [www.energypedia.info](http://www.energypedia.info). This includes not only providing the technical infrastructure and further IT development and handling the whole registration process of users, but also means giving support to our community. We constantly give feedback to authors on how to improve the quality of their articles in terms of formatting, structuring and tagging the content. We try to engage users via our newsletter and social media channels, and we offer tutorials on how to work on energypedia. The latter is done via email, phone, skype and tutorial videos.

We also provide information on relevant events, jobs and opportunities on our platform and via the monthly newsletter. In addition, we constantly try to increase our reach and expand our offer by cooperating with relevant networks, organizations and institutions.

Furthermore, we participate in events and conferences to inform people: a) about the relevance of energy access and the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries, and b) about energypedia's offer to energy experts and other interested stakeholders.

Over the past years, we have continuously grown, both in terms of content and in terms of reach.

### ***2.3.2 Intended results (outcome/impact) on direct and indirect target groups***

By doing all the work described above, we aim to achieve the following results:

First, we want to make stakeholders aware of energypedia.info and the options it offers for worldwide knowledge exchange on sustainable energy in developing countries.

Second, we want to enable our target groups to use energypedia in the best way and to exchange their knowledge and experience with other energy experts / academics / researchers / stakeholders.

The assumption behind this is that once people start sharing their knowledge, they can learn from each other in terms of both what works and what not in supporting energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. Using web 2.0 tools offers a much wider exchange also across national, regional, organizational or even sectoral boundaries than conventional tools used within organizations, workshops or conferences.

Further, we expect people to use the knowledge, which they gained on energypedia in their own work. Ultimately, by supporting knowledge sharing, we aim to contribute to reducing energy poverty by making access to renewable energy and energy efficient technologies widely available. Thus, our indirect target groups are people, institutions and small and medium enterprises in developing countries lacking access to energy. We are aware of the difficulty of finding robust evidence to show our impact on these indirect target groups.

### 2.3.3 Presentation of the impact logic

Target groups	Work performed (output)	Use of output	Expected results (outcome)	Higher aggregated results (Impacts)
Energy experts / practitioners with focus on developing countries	<p>Running of collaborative wiki platform <a href="http://www.energypedia.info">www.energypedia.info</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration of new users</li> <li>Answering questions from users</li> <li>Supporting users and giving feedback on articles</li> <li>Solving IT problems</li> <li>Wiki gardening (restructuring, tagging, quality control)</li> <li>Webinars and trainings on how to use energypedia (online, skype, telephone, emails)</li> </ul> <p>Participation at national and international energy / development events to inform target groups about renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries and about the offer of energypedia in this context.</p> <p>Providing target groups with relevant news about energy issues in developing countries (newsletter, use of social media, publications)</p> <p>Engaging with international networks and alliances</p> <p>Building-up a cooperation with universities, organizations and institutions, provide them with relevant information and offer them the possibility to document conferences and other events on energypedia.info</p>	<p>Energypedia is well known and used by target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of unique visitors of the platform increases</li> <li>Number of registered users increases</li> <li>Number of cooperation increases</li> <li>Publications and articles referring to energypedia as a source of information</li> </ul> <p>Visitors and registered users are satisfied with content of platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to user surveys</li> </ul>	<p>Users know how to work on energypedia, write new articles and edit existing ones</p> <p>Users exchange their experience on energypedia and learn from each other</p> <p>Users know more about renewables, energy efficiency and energy access in developing countries</p> <p>People use their knowledge from energypedia in own projects / research</p>	<p>More people in developing countries get access to sustainable energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency)</p> <p>Energy poverty is reduced</p>
Academics / Researchers				
People working for NGOs, companies, governments and other institutions, who deal with energy issues in developing countries				



### 3. Resources, Work Performed and Results

#### 3.1 Resources used (input)

In 2020, due to funding constraints, we had to reduce massively costs: our personnel expenses have only been 11,802 € and operating costs sum to the amount of 5,334 € (insurances, bookkeeping, Internet, etc.).

In turn, less staff resources meant also less activities and engagement on the platform.

However, we also have drawn on the knowledge of our energypedia community that contributed voluntarily content to the platform and to our newsletters. Our online platform energypedia.info runs on the open source software mediawiki, thus no licenses are used.

#### 3.2 Work performed (output)

##### **Running of the collaborative online wiki platform [www.energapedia.info](http://www.energapedia.info)**

- Technical hosting and maintenance of the platform
- We handled the registration process of 866 new users
- We answered questions of registered users and visitors - be it on how to use the platform or on renewable energy issues
- We gave constant support to our users on how to write, upload and link content (mainly via email).
- We gave feedback on articles written by our community.

##### **Knowledge creation and support of knowledge exchange on renewable energies in developing countries**

- Updating of articles, e. g. Energy and the Sustainable Development Goals, Energy Access Figures, Zambia Energy Situation.
- Own research, writing and dissemination of an article about energy for rural health centers.
- Research and creation of articles about quality and energy infrastructure, in collaboration with Physikalisch Technischer Bundesanstalt in Braunschweig, Germany.
- Planning, implementation and documentation of two more webinars on energy in humanitarian contexts, to promote and share knowledge on technologies, impacts and best practices. In each webinar, approx. 100 persons participated from different humanitarian and energy organizations. The webinar series is part of an ongoing collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNITAR.
- Implementation of a webinar on the topic of civil society and COVID-19 in the energy sector, in cooperation with the ACCESS Coalition.
- Implementation and documentation of the webinar “Gender, productive end use and minigrids”, in collaboration with the Power for All Initiative. Around 300 people joined this online seminar.
- Implementation and documentation of a webinar on solar powered pumps in humanitarian contexts, with 541 participants. This is a cooperation with Global Solar and Water Initiative (GLOSWI), a project from Oxfam and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).
- Research and promotion of relevant energy events, opportunities and jobs in the area of renewable energies, energy access, and energy efficiency in developing countries.

##### **Participation at national and international events**

- Due to the pandemic, all conferences and events were cancelled.

### Provide target groups with relevant news

In 2020, we carried on with our **social media** engagement (Facebook, twitter, LinkedIn) in order to promote knowledge and experience exchange, spread news about energypedia, energy sector news as well as news from other organizations regarding renewables in developing countries. However, due to limited capacities, we had to reduce our engagement on social media.

The following table lists our followers in 2020:

Facebook	Twitter	LinkedIn	Newsletter
2,099	2,162	1230	5,937

We also publish our monthly „[Energypedia Newsletter](#)“, containing information e.g. about new content on energypedia, relevant publications in the renewable energy sector, relevant news from other organizations and countries, as well as latest energy events, jobs, and opportunities.

### Cooperation

In 2020, we cooperated with the following organizations and initiatives in order to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience as well as research on energy issues in developing countries.

- We continued our cooperation with The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with regard to Sustainable Energy in Humanitarian Settings. By organizing webinars we want to raise awareness and spread knowledge about different technologies, best practices and impacts in the humanitarian setting.
- ACCESS Coalition and energypedia jointly organized a webinar on civil society and COVID-19 in the energy access area. 53 persons attended the event.
- Cooperation with Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt in Braunschweig for providing information about quality in energy infrastructure.
- End of 2020, start of a webinar series on solar powered pumps in humanitarian contexts, in cooperation with Global Solar and Water Initiative (GLOSWI), a project from Oxfam and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The webinar series will continue in 2021.
- We became a media partner of the Energy Efficiency Coalition and participated in a campaign on health and energy.
- Media partnership with the Energy Globe Award, a renowned award for renewable energy projects worldwide.
- We became a media and knowledge partner of the International Conference on Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini Grids to improve energy access, which was supposed to take place in Mallorca, Spain in 2020. Due to the pandemic, the conference was first postponed from spring to autumn and then to 2021.
- energypedia has been accepted as a member of VENRO, the association of development and humanitarian NGOs in Germany.

Please read more about our partnerships, cooperation and networks in chapter 5.3.

### 3.3 Results achieved (outcome/impact)

The number of articles increased by 84 to 4,809, which is the lowest growth in all the years; similarly, the number of active users decreased from 37 to 27 a month, which again is the lowest ever.

However, this significant drop in active users has not been reflected in our “passive” users: The number of unique visitors per month went up from 64,812 in 2019 to 78,815 in 2020, with a maximum in November of 97,078. Similarly, the number of visits and page views are much higher than the last years.

Key Figures	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Registered Users****	2,216	3,029	4,174	5,378	6,836	7,932	8,949	9,920	10,786
Unique visitors/month*	8,612	15,471	23,220	35,825	45,290	41,697	50,093	64,812	78,815
Active users/month**	33	34	38	39	46	41	42	37	27
Visits per year	135,775	228,034	347,167	536,134	673,926	639,037	768,603	988,875	1,214,084
Articles***	771	1,138	2,291	2,961	3,806	4,190	4,511	4,725	4,809
Page edits****	55,126	68,126	93,110	110,577	134,488	152,598	171,390	184,078	194,997
Page Views per year	352,376	480,365	716,831	1,097,816	1,260,495	1,141,133	1,294,633	1,651,884	1,901,076
Files****	2,927	3,675	4,994	5,806	6,719	8,165	9,449	10,332	11,178
Downloads per year	13,257	25,671	48,880	80,066	102,211	108,545	133,806	172,827	193,906

\* Unique visitors per month on average. The unique visitor number counts the number of individuals who access energypedia within each month.

\*\* Active users per month on average. Active users are all users who performance any kind of activity.

\*\*\*Articles are all content pages contributed by users on renewable energy topics, numbers are accumulative.

\*\*\*\* Accumulative numbers since energypedia.info was set up

### 3.5 Provisions taken for the accompanying evaluation and quality assurance

Evaluation and quality assurance within energypedia has several facets.

On an organizational level, we use an internal wiki to organize our work and for our own knowledge management. Within that frame, we also have an operations manual defining key processes and responsibilities. Furthermore, we have planning workshops, weekly meetings and we usually discuss urgent issues within the team on a day-to-day basis.

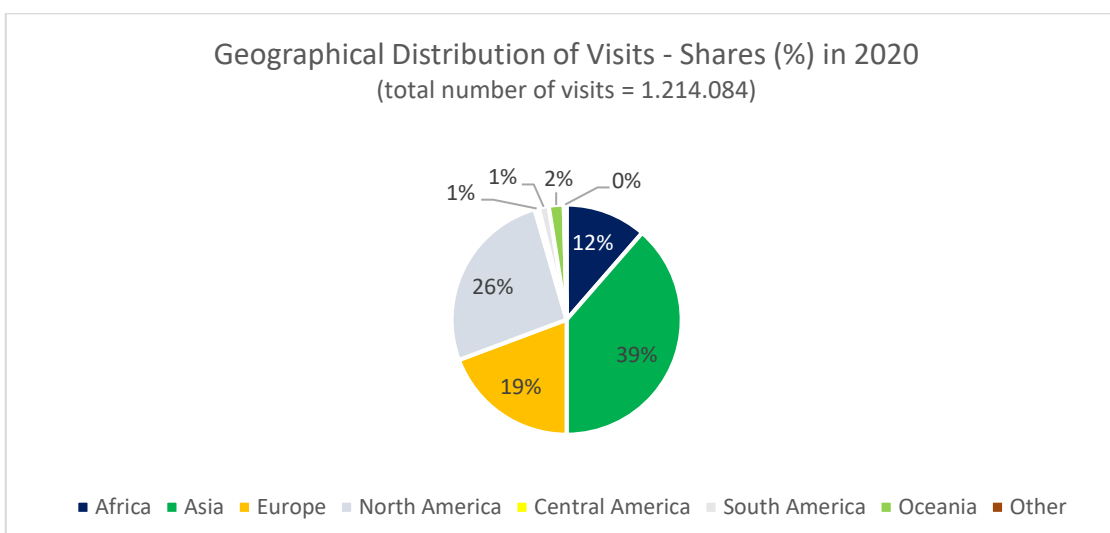
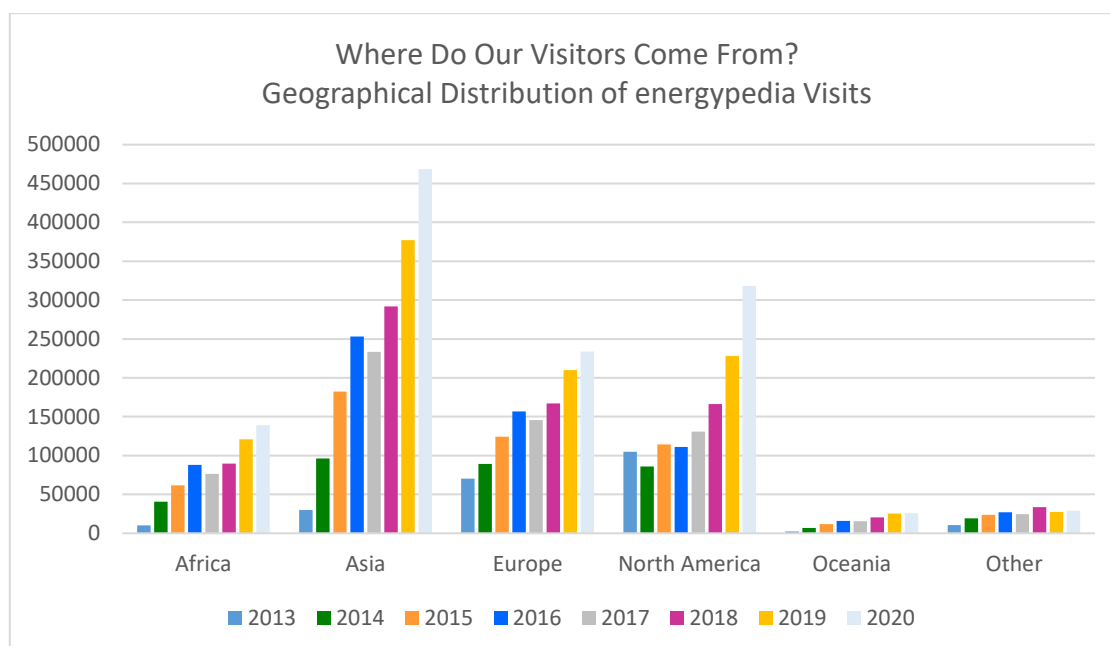
Regarding the monitoring and evaluation of our platform energypedia.info we use Matomo (former Piwik) and Heatmaps to collect data on key performance indicators such as number of unique visitors, number of visits, referring websites, most visited pages, etc. With wiki software inherent statistics, the number of registered users and active users as well as the number of content pages are collected. We analyze this data on a monthly basis.

When it comes to the quality assurance of articles on energypedia, we have a two-fold approach: on the one hand, we make sure that articles fulfill certain formatting and layout standards and are not commercial advertisement pieces. We give authors and editors any support they need in order to make the best of their articles. On the other hand, we follow the wiki philosophy that registered users can edit whatever they want. We do not want to judge on the content of their articles as we assume they are the experts on the specific topic they are writing about. Therefore, we also try to encourage our community to participate in quality assurance in terms of updating information, adding relevant content, deleting wrong or outdated information and discussing controversial issues.

### 3.6 Previous year comparison: Objectives achieved, learning experience and success

For 2020, we set the following targets:

- To keep the level of 60,000 unique visitors as occurred in 2019
  - In 2020, we achieved 78.8155 unique visitors per month on average, which is the highest number so far.
- To keep on increasing the participation of users from around the world and encourage them to become active contributors of knowledge
  - The number of registered users increased by 866 people, from 9,920 at the end of 2019 to 10,786 at the end of 2020. This equals 3.4 new registrations per working day. This number is a bit lower than in the previous year, in which we had 4 registrations per working day.
  - In 2020, people from 201 distinct countries accessed the platform in 2020. The majority of visitors came from Asia, but the numbers of visitors in all geographical areas grew compared to 2019.
  - Despite the growing numbers of visitors and visits, the number of active users decreased from 37 on average in 2019 to 27 on average in 2020. Here, we clearly did not achieve our target, which might also been caused by our low interaction and engagement due to financial and thus staff constraints.



- To increase the number and quality of articles (as a result of getting more people actively involved) and include more video material into the articles
  - 2020 has been the year with the lowest growth in terms of new articles so far. This might have been caused by the pandemic and the little money we had. Since our team engagement only run on a very low flame, we could not manage to encourage people to contribute their knowledge and expertise in form of articles and other contributions.
  - Due to constraints in resources, we did not include more video materials into articles.
- To secure funding in and beyond 2020, also for an IT update of the software
  - We could not secure further funding in 2020, but successfully handed in grant proposals to ICRC and GIZ, which were approved and have started in 2021.

## 4. Planning and Forecast

### 4.1 Planning and targets

For 2021, we set the following targets:

- Secure funding in and beyond 2021
- Update our mediawiki software
- Keep the level of roughly 80,000 unique visitors as occurred in 2020
- Increase the participation of users from around the world and encourage them to become active contributors of knowledge
- Increase the number and quality of articles

### 4.2 Influence factors: chances and risks

In September 2015, the UN Summit for Sustainable Development adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and agreed upon 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.<sup>13</sup> With SDG 7, energy is finally being recognized as a key enabler for development. Universal access to energy, a higher share of renewable energy and massive improvements in energy efficiency are now part of the top global priorities for sustainable development in the years to come. Therefore, the framework conditions for an independent knowledge and experience platform on renewables, efficiency and energy access are quite good in terms of the relevance of the topic.

At the same time however, knowledge exchange is not necessarily an attractive topic, which donors or other stakeholders would be eager to finance. Experiences from previous years show that if they invest funds in this area, they would rather build up their own new platform, in order to raise their public profile and not financing an independent platform, which is open to all stakeholders in the area. Therefore, raising funds is, and will probably remain, one of our biggest challenges.

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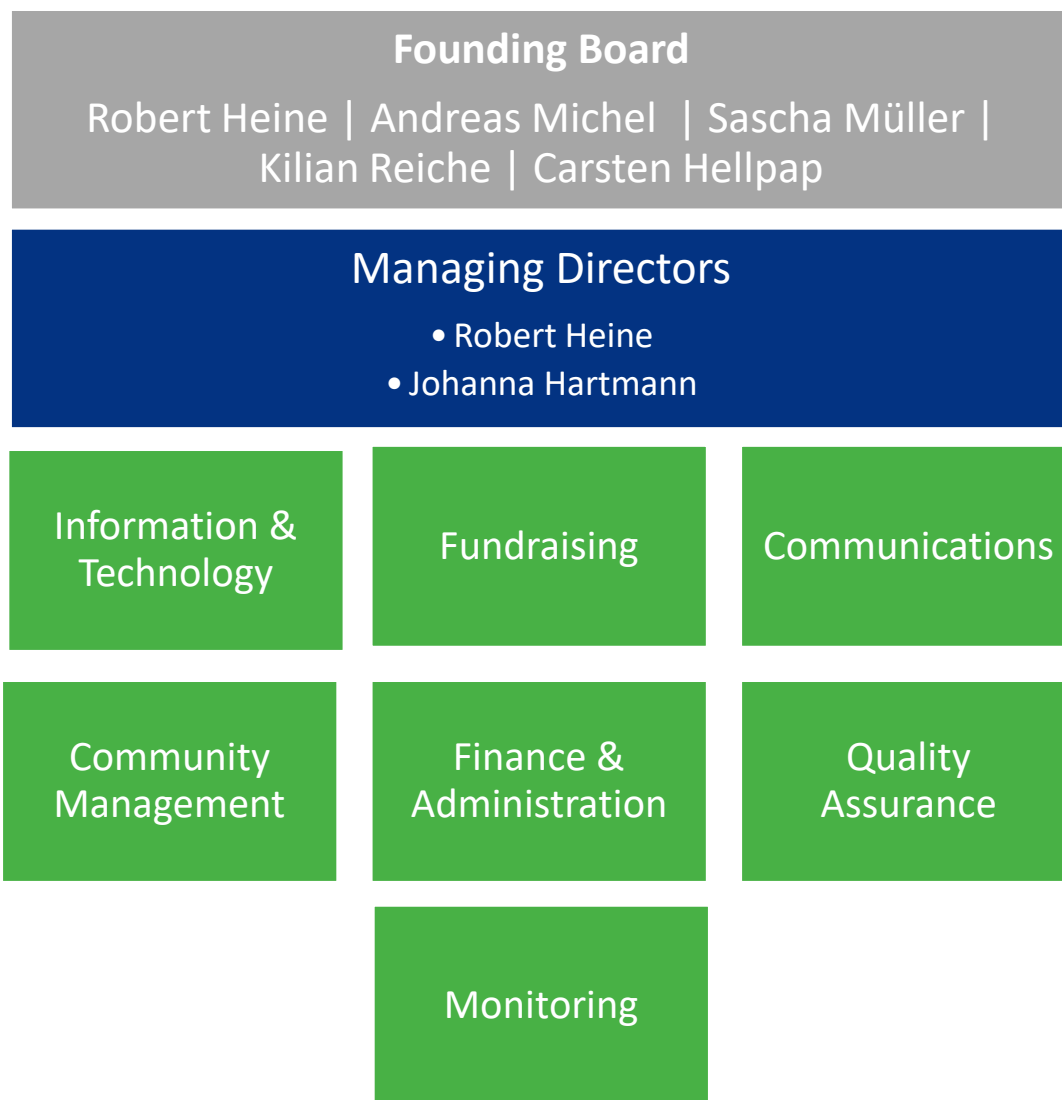
<sup>13</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

## 5. Organisational Structure and Team

### 5.1 Organizational structure

The energypedia nonprofit UG (haftungsbeschränkt) team consists of a young and committed group of founding partners and members. It was founded in 2011 by four shareholders: Andreas Michel, Sascha Müller, Kilian Reiche and Robert Heine. In December 2019, Carsten Hellpap joined as a fifth shareholder.

In 2020, energypedia UG had 3 employees (part-time). The illustration shows the different sections or task areas.



## 5.2 Introduction of the participating individuals



Ranisha Basnet joined energypedia in spring 2014. She is the main person for running energypedia, taking care of all platform and user relevant issues. She is responsible for energy access research and partnerships and cooperation.



Lisa Feldmann has been part of the energypedia team since its beginnings in 2012, when she managed the whole start-up phase. On a part time basis, she is responsible for awareness raising, renewable energy technologies, and quality issues.



Johanna Hartmann joined energypedia as energy expert. She is responsible for community management and fundraising. Since 2019, she acts as one of the two managing directors of energypedia.



Robert Heine is a managing director of energypedia. Being one of the developers of energypedia within GIZ, he later became a founding shareholder when energypedia was established as an independent organization. In 2013, he quit GIZ and became the managing director of energypedia. His main responsibilities are finance and administration as well as information technology. He is acting on a voluntary basis.



### 5.3 Partnerships, cooperation and networks

This year we signed the following partnerships and joined the following networks or initiatives to support international efforts to achieving energy access for all:

- Cooperation with Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt in Braunschweig for providing information about quality in energy infrastructure.
- Media partnership with the Energy Globe Award, a renowned award for renewable energy projects worldwide.
- energypedia has been accepted as a member of VENRO, the association of development and humanitarian NGOs in Germany.

Ongoing cooperation and partnerships include the following organizations, programs and institutions:

#### **UNITAR / ICRC**

We continued our cooperation with The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with regard to Sustainable Energy in Humanitarian Settings. By organizing joint webinars we want to raise awareness and spread knowledge about different technologies, best practices and impacts in the humanitarian setting.

#### **ACCESS Coalition**

The ACCESS Coalition consists of a range of civil society organizations (CSOs), both international and national working to deliver universal energy access, particularly within Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) implementation and other global energy initiatives. In 2020, we jointly organized a webinar on civil society and COVID-19 in the energy access area.

#### **Efficiency for Access**

[Efficiency for Access](#) is a coalition promoting energy efficiency as a potent catalyst in global clean energy access efforts. Coalition programs aim to scale up markets and reduce prices for super-efficient, off- and weak-grid appropriate products, support technological innovation, and improve sector coordination. This year, we participated in their social media campaign on health and energy.

#### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Energypedia works closely together with the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#), where the concept of energypedia was initially developed. In particular, we cooperate(d) with HERA (program for poverty-oriented basic energy services) and EnDev (Energising Development Partnership) in promoting access to renewable energy and their sustainable and efficient use.

#### **Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and others**

We partner with the [Energy Sector Management Assistance Program \(ESMAP\)](#) and the [Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Resource Center \(PPPIRC\)](#) of the World Bank, [reeep](#), [OpenEI](#), [Wuppertal Institute](#) and [Natural Resources Canada](#) to host the [Clean Energy Project Resource Center](#) on energypedia.info. This database offers project-relevant renewable energy and energy efficiency documents to the global energy community. It includes sample Terms of Reference, examples of Economic and Financial Analysis, sample Legal & Procurement Documents, Case Studies with analysis of success factors lessons learned, and more.

#### **Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET) in South and Southeast Asia**

Together with the [Hydro Empowerment Network](#) (HPNET), we created the Micro-Hydro Library, which enables users to upload publications and documents on micro hydro topics. We furthermore cooperate in general to exchange and spread information on micro hydro energy, e.g. via webinars.

**Global Solar and Water Initiative (GLOSWI)**

Together with GLOSWI, Oxfam and IOM development of a webinar series of four events on solar powered pumps in humanitarian contexts, running end of 2020 and in 2021.

**UNFCCC**

Since 2018, energypedia is one of the Official Observers to the [United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate Change](#).

**ALER**

[ALER \(Lusophone Renewable Energy Association\)](#) is a non-profit association with the mission to promote renewable energy in Portuguese-speaking countries. ALER's scope covers all technologies and types of projects, whether on - grid, off-grid or mini-grid systems.

**Power for All**

[Power for All](#) advances renewable, decentralized electrification solutions as the fastest, most cost-effective and sustainable approach to universal energy access.

**SUSANA**

The [Sustainable Sanitation Alliance \(SuSanA\)](#) is an open international alliance with members who share a common mission on sustainable sanitation and are dedicated to understanding viable and sustainable sanitation solutions.

Read [here](#) more about our partnerships, networks and cooperation partners.

## 6. Organizational Profile

### 6.1 General information about the organization

Energypedia is an organization based in Germany. Its official legal form is “Unternehmergeellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)” which is comparable with the British Limited Company (Ltd.). Due to energypedia’s activities in promoting development cooperation through knowledge and technology transfer, it has been recognized by German tax authorities as a nonprofit organization. As a result, while energypedia is organized as a company, it follows non-profit goals. Our main focus is on running the platform energypedia.info.

The energypedia wiki was developed within the Energising Development Programme (EnDev), a joint impact-oriented global program of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia, United Kingdom and Switzerland, with additional co-funding from Ireland and the European Union. EnDev is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Serving as an internal tool for knowledge management in the beginning, it went public in 2011 and was outsourced in 2012 and handed over to energypedia UG.

Organization name	energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt)
Organization location	König-Adolf-Str. 12, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany
Organization Founding	2011
Further branches	-
Legal form	Gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)
Contact details	König-Adolf-Str. 12, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany Phone +4961118195032 <a href="mailto:info@energypedia.info">info@energypedia.info</a> <a href="http://www.energypedia.info">www.energypedia.info</a>
Link to Articles of Association (URL)	energypedia’s charter can be read here: <a href="https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energypedia_-_Charter">https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energypedia - Charter</a>
Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• court of registry</li> <li>• registration number</li> <li>• date of registration</li> </ul>	Wiesbaden HRB 31545 22.11.2011
Charity or non-profit organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• latest acknowledgment or confirmation of tax exemption by the relevant authority</li> <li>• Issuing authority</li> <li>• Statement of non-profit purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18.03.2021</li> <li>• Finanzamt Wiesbaden I</li> <li>• Promotion of development cooperation; Promotion of science and research</li> </ul>

Employee headcount	2020
Total number of workers	4
thereof on full-time basis	0
thereof on part-time basis	3 (50% contract: 1 for a few months; 2 mini-jobs)
thereof on freelance basis	0
thereof on voluntary basis	1 (our managing director) plus an unknown number of voluntary authors*

\*All registered authors contribute voluntarily to the content on energypedia. In 2020, we had more than 10,700 registered users; of this group, an average of 27 made a voluntary contribution each month.

## 6.2 Governance of the organization

### **Management**

Managing director of energypedia are Robert Heine and since 2019 Johanna Hartmann. The managing directors have been appointed by energypedia's shareholders. The managing directors are responsible for the operational implementation of strategic decisions, personnel, and organizing the day-to-day business. They act as the representative of energypedia in all affairs.

### **Conflicts of interests**

Robert Heine is both, shareholder and managing director of energypedia. However, he holds merely 38% of energypedia's shares and thus has a voting power of 38%. For most decisions, a simple majority is needed. For very relevant decisions (e.g. liquidation of the company, increase in capital stock etc.) a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of votes is necessary. This means that the power of Robert Heine being both shareholder and managing director at the same time is limited, reducing the probability of potential conflicts of interest.

### **Internal control systems**

Our controlling is done every month based on the business assessment provided by our tax consultant. Additionally, an internal liquidity management system is used for calculations and projections of expenditures and earnings. This is carried out by the managing director.

Monitoring data on the use of our internet platform is collected on a monthly basis. In weekly meetings, activities and achieved results are discussed within the team.

## 6.3 Ownership structure, memberships and associated organizations

### **Ownership structure of the organization**

Energypedia has five shareholders:

Robert Heine	38%
Andreas Michel	30%
Sascha Müller	15%
Carsten Hellpap	10%
Kilian Reiche	7%

Voting power: each Euro is equivalent to one vote.

The shareholders act on a voluntary basis. Generally, they meet once a year for a general shareholder meeting where they formally approve the actions of the managing directors and get informed about the annual financial report and

activities carried out during the last year. Furthermore, they discuss strategic issues and take decisions, which have to be implemented by the managing directors. Further meetings are organized if necessary.

### ***Associated organizations***

Energypedia holds 49% of the shares in energypedia consult GmbH, a commercial subsidiary which offers IT solutions for web based monitoring, knowledge and project management in the field of development cooperation. Voting rights: 49%. Energypedia is sharing its offices with energypedia consult.

### ***Memberships***

In 2020, energypedia became a member of VENRO, the association of development and humanitarian NGOs in Germany.

## **6.4 Environmental and social profile**

Energypedia is not only carrying the idea of renewable energy and energy efficiency but also doing its best to implement the idea of green thinking into the daily working live. We are aware of our own responsibility regarding ecological sustainability. Thus, energypedia tries to minimize its ecological footprint as far as possible. This includes:

- most of our furniture is second-hand
- we only order office materials from an eco-friendly supplying company
- we only buy recycled printing paper and print as little as possible
- all materials like factsheets, flyers and business cards are printed with high ecologic standards. We commission only printing companies using recycled paper, electricity from renewable energy and compensate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- within Germany we travel by train only and for international flights we compensate our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint
- our server is running on “green power”, meaning we don’t use electricity from nuclear power or coal plantations
- we don’t have a company car
- we switch off electrical devices before going home
- our office uses eco-friendly electricity supply from renewable energy resources

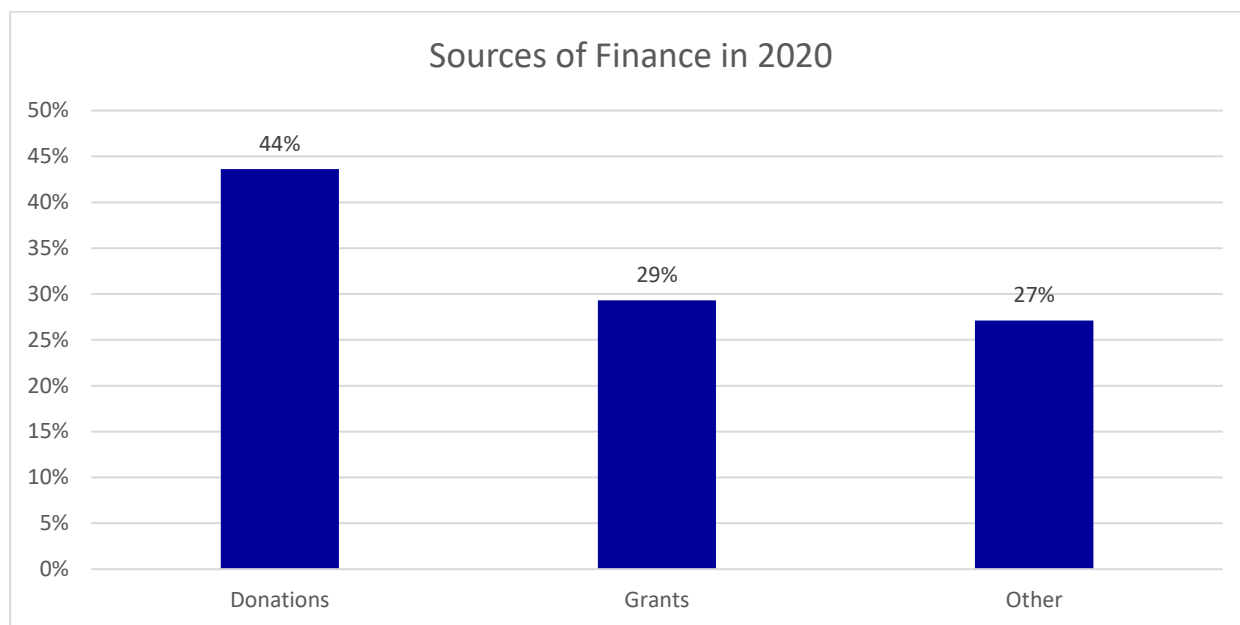
Energypedia considers itself a responsible organization also with regard to its employees. Our social profile entails:

- flexible working times
- flexible home office days
- overtime can be balanced out with free time
- educational leaves and trainings are supported
- annual appraisal interviews
- highly participatory approach: most decisions are taken within the team
- “open-door-policy” of the managing director
- diverse team of males and females, from Germany, Egypt, and Nepal.

## 7. Finance and Accounting Practices

Energypedia UG is a nonprofit company financed by grants from implementing organizations and foundations, own business operations and donations from private individuals and companies.

In 2020, energypedia had a total income of 28,432.15 Euros. We incurred expenses of 17,220.89 Euros.



\*Other includes revenues from business operations

In determining the advertising and administrative costs, we followed the guidelines of the [German Central Institute for Social Issues \(DZI\)](#). Due to the small size of our organization, we have used careful estimates. According to DZI, the sum of advertising / fundraising and administrative costs should not exceed 30 percent of an organization's total expenditure. While in 2019 this number was only 10.5%, it increased to 43% in 2020 due to the very low income and limited staff resources. Our administrative costs alone (insurance, accounting, etc.) of just over 5,300 euros accounted for almost a third of our expenses. However, we would like to point out that 2020, with the pandemic, outrunning grants and lacking further funding, was a very challenging and particular year for us, in which we had to scale down personnel cost to a minimum. Furthermore, we are very grateful that our subsidiary energypedia consult GmbH allows us to use various technologies.

### 7.1 Bookkeeping and accounting

Double-entry bookkeeping and accounting is done by an external tax advisory and accounting firm, Dr. Christian Gastl in Wiesbaden. This firm is also creating the annual financial statement, which follows the rules of German Commercial Code (HGB) with special regards to §§ 266 and 275 HGB.

### 7.2 Financial situation and planning

Our financial situation in 2020 was quite critical, as we could not manage to get new funding. It remains crucial to increase the amount of donations and to diversify the origin of our grants. Finding more donors who are willing to give us grants to support knowledge and experience exchange on energy access in developing countries is important to be able to offer our services to the sector. Our plan for 2021 is to raise new funds for humanitarian webinars, working on the energy access situation in Mozambique, and to increase the donations from private persons as well as from companies.



## 7.2 Activities and Balance Sheet for 2020

### Statement of Activities (all amounts in Euros)

<b>Revenue</b>	
Grants	8,324.32
Revenues 19% turnover tax	4,600.00
Revenues 16% turnover tax	2,410.34
Other revenues 19% tax	537.55
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>15,872.21</b>
<b>Other Earnings</b>	
Income from reversal of provisions for liabilities	148.50
Donations	12,398.95
Reimbursements	0.00
Other	11.66
<b>Total other earnings</b>	<b>12,559.11</b>
<b>Material Costs</b>	
Cost of raw materials, consumables and supplies and of purchased merchandise	0.00
Cost of purchased services	0.00
<b>Total Material Costs</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	
Salaries and wages	9,426.00
Social contributions	2,376.08
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>11,802.08</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Occupancy costs	0.00
Insurances and other contributions	260.00
Travel costs	0.00
Operating expenses	4,912.45
Other expenses	161.36
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>5,333.81</b>
<b>Earnings from shares in affiliated companies</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Interests paid</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Interest earnings</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>Result from ordinary operations = Annual net income (taxes = 0)</b>	<b>11,211.26</b>
Profit Carried Forward	1,285.73
Allocation to reserves	3,829.30
<b>Balance Sheet Profit</b>	<b>8,667.69</b>

### Balance Sheet (all amounts in Euros)

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Fixed assets</b>	
Furniture and fittings	311.50
Shareholdings (49% energypedia consult)	23,030.00
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>23,341.50</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Liquid assets	726.00
Other Assets	6,694.94
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>7,420.94</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>30,762.44</b>
<b>Liabilities, owners' equity and reserves</b>	
<b>Owners' equity</b>	
Capital stock	7,000.00
Retained profit	10,655.96
Balance sheet profit	8,667.69
<b>Total owners' equity</b>	<b>26,323.65</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	
Accrued taxes	320.00
Other reserves	1,848.00
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Trade payables	0.00
Other liabilities	2,270.79
<b>Total liabilities, owners' equity and reserves</b>	<b>30,762.44</b>



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energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt)

König-Adolf-Str. 12

65191 Wiesbaden, Germany

Phone +4961118195032

Email [info@energypedia.info](mailto:info@energypedia.info)

### Internet

[www.energypedia.info](http://www.energypedia.info)



[www.facebook.com/energypediawiki](https://www.facebook.com/energypediawiki)



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<https://www.youtube.com/user/energypedia>

### Managing directors

Robert Heine and Johanna Hartmann (until March 2021)

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